



Making Places in 1:1

site specificity and local transformations through temporary projects

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Edited by
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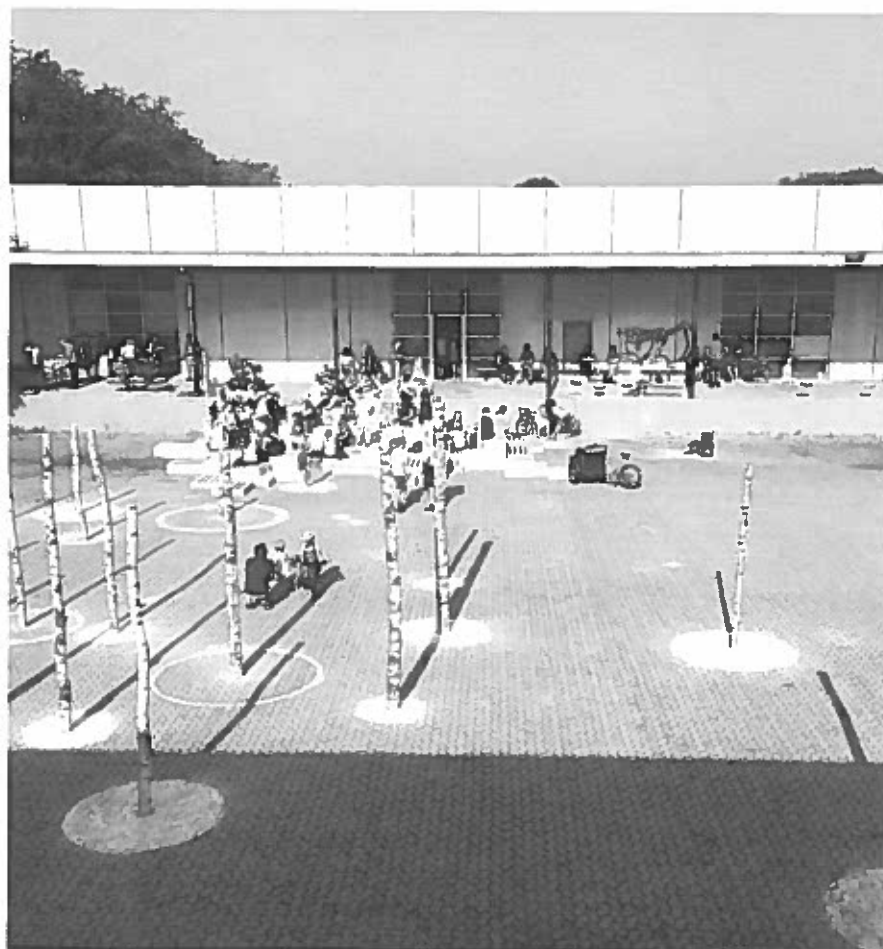
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MAKING PLACES IN 1:1: SITE SPECIFICITY AND LOCAL TRANSFORMATIONS THROUGH TEMPORARY PROJECTS

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*public space / temporary use / co-creation /
production / aesthetics / user involvement*



LOD67, Amager Copenhagen: Landscape architecture students from the University of Copenhagen built new installations at the former warehouse parking lot attempting to transform the site from that of industry into a living playful public place. (Photo by Bettina Lamm)

At the University of Copenhagen we have been engaged in practice-based research projects. We explore methods of creating new public domains through making and building temporary small-scale spaces in 1:1 in close collaboration with local site and communities.

These projects have emerged at abandoned and seemingly unused sites suggesting alternative adaptations and possibilities of places for public or communal use. The aim is to investigate if and how relatively low budgets and simple physical alterations can set transformations in motion reprogramming and redirecting the discourse of a place.

Through the notion of site specificity as introduced by Miwon Kwon, cases are explored in relation to its physical environment, site discourse, and the social context. This entails local users and resources, physical settings and the legislative and political situation surrounding a site and recording how all this changes when even small scale transformative processes are set in motion. The drafting table was replaced by a strong presence on site developing projects in an almost hand crafted process that allowed for adaptations and alterations to be made in the moment. Initially the methods came out of monetary budget restraints that

made it vital to engage all possible resources. However through the process we realized that the method had advantages and interesting implications for the design process, the site context and for creating community capacity.

What emerged also revealed how seemingly “innocent” site alterations can both stir the legislative system and be transformative.

REFERENCES

Kwon, Miwon: *One Place After Another: Site-specific Art and Locational Identity*, 2004